

**WEDNESDAYS AT FIRST
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SPARTANBURG
DR. THOMAS E. EVANS
APRIL 15, 2015**

HOW PEOPLE VIEW THE BIBLE

LITERAL: The person believes the events of the Bible happened. The meaning is found in the words of the Bible.

FIGURATIVE: The person does not believe that all of the Bible happened as it says it did. The meaning is behind the words.

THE ROLE OF SCRIPTURE IN PEOPLE'S LIVES

ESSENTIAL: The Bible is felt to be a necessary condition for the life of the disciple.

SUPPLEMENTAL: The Bible may add significant understanding but we could get along without it.

HOW PEOPLE READ (RECEIVE) THE BIBLE

EXPERIENTIAL: The Bible comes alive to the reader. The reader enters into the world of the Bible. The reader encounters the Bible story as her/his story.

ANALYTICAL: The Bible is dissected and studied to learn truth. The reader draws out the meaning.

WHAT PEOPLE DRAW FROM THE BIBLE

PRACTICAL: The Bible is seen as a tool which can be applied to certain situations in life.

FORMATIVE: The Bible shapes our very being.

The interview consisted of nine questions. They are as follows:

1. Tell me in what way, if at all, was the Bible part of your upbringing? (Family devotion? Quoted to you? Memorization?)
2. Describe for me as completely as possible your understanding of the creation story in Genesis chapters one and two. (I had a copy of the text to which the respondent could refer)
3. What does the parable of the prodigal son teach us? (I had a copy available if needed)
4. Describe the ways you encounter the Bible today (worship, personal study, adult study). Which way do you gravitate to the most?
5. Describe the last time you encountered scripture other than in worship (What prompted this encounter; what passage you read or heard and why you selected that one; what your mood was before and after, and anything else you can think of.)
6. Do you have a favorite book or passage of the Bible? What is it and why?
7. Of what use is the Bible for us today?
8. Have you ever been a part of a Bible study? If so describe which study you found most meaningful and why.
9. How should the Bible be used today? Why?